

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.  
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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## THE STATE AT LARGE.

## PETERSBURG AND VICINITY.

A Memorial to the Legislature--The Management of the State Normal College. (Continued from the Richmond Dispatch.)

PETERSBURG, Dec. 9, 1885.

The better portion of the colored people of this city have for a long time been dissatisfied with the management of the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, near this city--an institution designed by the Legislature for the higher education of those of both sexes of the colored race who desire to fit themselves for teachers, and therefore worthy the confidence and patronage of the colored people of the State.

But under the appointments made for the management of the institution it seemed to have been managed more in the interests of politics than education, and scandal has been brought upon the college. The secretary of the Board of Visitors was openly charged with irregularities by the treasurer, Professor Sturm, an educated colored man, first reduced from the position of principal of the college to that of teacher, and then unceremoniously removed altogether.

This last action of the authorities has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction among the colored people, as well as among the students. At a meeting of the students held yesterday a memorial to the Legislature was adopted and signed, which practically arraigns the management of the institution. This memorial, after recognizing the liberality of the Legislature in the establishment of a school for the colored people, and the appointment of men identified with their race for its management, sets forth that "its objects have been to a considerable extent frustrated by the fact that the school has most unfortunately fallen into the hands of unscrupulous politicians, with a few exceptions, who use the institution for personal advantage as opposed to the interests of the colored people."

In the memorial the removal of Professor Sturm, as principal of the institution, without assigning any just cause, but for partisan purposes, is cited; also his absolute dismission as one of the faculty. It is further declared that incompetent persons have been appointed as teachers. The petitioners, therefore, as a last resort, appeal to the Legislature to remedy these and other existing evils, against which the students earnestly remonstrate.

It is hoped that the Legislature will give the management of this school a thorough investigation, and as the matter is to be brought before it on two or more petitions by colored people themselves, the sooner the investigation is made the better.

The city was enveloped in a dense fog this morning, and for several hours a heavy rain fell. The temperature has greatly moderated since yesterday.

The tobacco warehouses were filled to overflowing with tobacco to-day, and scores of wagons at each warehouse could not be unloaded for lack of room to place the tobacco.

The new steamer belonging to the Atlantic and Danville Railroad Company, which is to run between Richmond and Petersburg and Chesapeake, and connect with the trains on that road, will be placed on the river the latter part of this week. She is a fine little boat, 150 feet in length and of proportionate breadth.

The Petersburg chorus is rehearsing the numbers it is to sing at the Mozart festival, and it may safely be predicted that the lovers of good music in Richmond will be delighted with their singing.

## NORFOLK AND PORTSMOUTH.

The Virginia Matter--A Trouble that Must be Settled by the Legislature--Late Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

NORFOLK, December 9, 1885.

The valuable property in the two steam-ferries lines, owned jointly by the city of Portsmouth and Norfolk county, has become a matter of dispute and is to go to the Legislature for authority to divide the same, and doubtless a vigorous contest is to follow. The property is valued at \$150,000, and earns \$80,000 a year.

The commission appointed by the city and county to manage the property are forever deadlocked, and no improvements, or even ordinary repairs, can be made. The city has determined to petition the Legislature, and last night the Council appointed a committee to take charge of the whole matter and do the best they can in the premises.

Lieutenant Clayton, assistant inspector of this life-saving district, left this morning for Cape Henry to superintend the erection of stables at the respective life-stations on the Virginia and North Carolina coast for the twenty horses to be sent down next week to be used in hauling the apparatus about the beach in time of disaster.

The weather is storming heavily here to-day; great floods of rain and dangerous southerly winds are prevailing on the coast.

Norfolk county commenced yesterday to look after its roads in earnest, by making liberal appropriations and appointing efficient officials to superintend the work.

The training squadron was to leave the navy-yard and drop down to the faraway buoy to-day, but the storm prevents.

## ROANOKE CITY.

Retrospective Notes--A Small Fire--Court Matters. (Continued from the Richmond Dispatch.)

ROANOKE, Dec. 9, 1885.

We are having very cold weather now, and the woods and coal-dealers are doing a flourishing business.

any term several criminal cases will be called--among others the cases of Wilson Steptoe and Lewis Watkins for the murder of Little Wilson.

Mrs. M. B. Trout, the widow of John Trout, deceased, and stepmother of her son, H. S. Trout, died at her home, in Franklin county, yesterday. Her remains will be brought here for burial.

## BOTETOURT COUNTY.

New Telegraph Line--Fugitive Captured--"Dactyl's" Letter. (Continued from the Richmond Dispatch.)

FINCASTE, Dec. 9, 1885.

The material for the construction of a telegraph line from this place to Jackson, on the Richmond and Alleghany railroad, has been received at that point, and the line will be put up in a short time. It will be owned by the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad Company, but private subscriptions were made to the enterprise by citizens of this place and the thriving little town of Jackson. The length of the line will be about eight miles.

The negro boy, Samuel Wright, who escaped jail here last week, and was recaptured and lodged in his cell. The other boy, Russell Douglas, is still at large.

Considerable interest is manifested in the county judgeship of this county, and several petitions are in circulation for different aspirants. Judge Swann will not be a candidate for reelection.

I learn that our neighboring little village of Buchanan is bidding for the Alleghany Institute, and "Dactyl" says in the *Dispatch* of yesterday that Buchanan "always manifests a little life when Fincaste threatens to secure an advantage." I am glad of it, as that is about the only time it makes any such manifestations, and then not to any alarming extent. The idea of moving the court-house from here to Buchanan has never seriously occurred to any one outside of that village, and if never moved until Buchanan builds the necessary houses it will doubtless remain here for some time to come.

As I remain here for some time to come, I am glad to see the men to fill the gap. Any one who is acquainted with the two places will be forced to smile at "Dactyl's" allusion to Fincaste as an "industrious man." If "Dactyl" has anything good to say of his home, let him say it, but let him not introduce comparisons that would be unfavorable to his town, in order that he may give vent to his spleen.

The nomination of Daniel for the Senate gave general pleasure to his many friends here.

The weather has been freezing cold for the last three days, and a great deal of ice will be gathered to-day.

## FARMVILLE NORMAL SCHOOL.

Its Work--A Successful Examination--Good Attendance. (Continued from the Richmond Dispatch.)

FARMVILLE, Dec. 7, 1885.

The progress of the State has perhaps been a little deficient in the matter of informing the public of the advantages, struggles, and successes of this last-born but hopeful child of the State, the Normal School at Farmville. Even as early as this in its history is its beneficial influence felt. One of its first graduates is doing good work as teacher in a high-grade school of this county, while more than a score of those who attended last session are utilizing in the school-rooms of the State the practical and professional knowledge there acquired.

Quite frequently has it happened that some worthy daughter of this sadly-stricken old Commonwealth has left for a few months the rustic school-house, where a small sum beyond a mere living had been earned, to learn from the teacher at Farmville how to be a wiser and better teacher.

More than 150 names are on the roll this session, representing every part of the State--town and country. These bear cheerful testimony to the wise teaching and judicious management of the faculty. The school progresses smoothly and harmoniously in all its departments and workings. KHAH.

## BUCHANAN.

Early Crushed While Completing Cars. (Continued from the Richmond Dispatch.)

DECEMBER 8, 1885.

A brakeman on the Richmond and Alleghany freight train was badly crushed while coupling cars at Balcroon Falls yesterday. He was brought here on the passenger train and placed in charge of the company's surgeon, Dr. E. F. Shedd.

Dactyl.

Brood and Sincere Patriotism. (New York Times, Independent.)

The confidence of the country in President Cleveland's sound judgment, in his practical good sense, and in his firm grasp of great public questions will be confirmed and increased by his conduct in regard to Congress. It is something more and higher than a business message. Without conscious effort, apparently, and certainly without visible straining after either the lofty or the profound, the President has impressed on his message the stamp of a broad and sincere patriotism. Its comments and suggestions are many, its principles few and the highest. To defend the national dignity and to respect the law, to himself and insist that others shall obey them, to punish and prevent dishonest acts, to advance our vast material interests and maintain our national credit, and to put wisdom above partisanship--these are the principles and purposes which guided the Executive hand in preparing this review of the affairs of the nation. It is the complex sentiment of patriotism reduced to practical expression and applied to the business of the State.

OTHER STRUGGLE TO CRITICIZE. New York Tribune, Radical Republican.

The first message of the President is a creditable paper. On some of the most important questions of which it treats it deserves hearty praise. Nor is it to him discredit, but much to his credit, that it is best and most worthy of commendation just where his party is worst and its influence is most to be feared. No party spirit is apparent in judging of the recommendations which the President has to offer. He has been intrusted with a great responsibility. For the President and his party the era of criticism and of promise is over; both are now to be judged by their performance, their capacity in practical administration. Hence it is appropriate to observe that his commendation in many respects, is likely in its best features, to meet the determined opposition of the party in power. The President's message is most right just where his party is most wrong, and his best advice is just that which is least likely to be followed.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

## SOME PRESS COMMENTS.

Opinions from Various Sources--Their General Tone Very Commendatory.

SOUND AND CONSERVATIVE. (Boston American, Republican.)

The message as a whole is sound and conservative. It is, perhaps, less positive and outspoken upon some points than had been expected, but it contains very little that can be successfully antagonized.